

# GMG Online Recital

March 14th, 2024

10:45 a.m. – 12:30 p.m.

## Program

L: Live Y: YouTube recording

L	Michael Brounoff	Ludwig von Beethoven	1770-1827	Sonata No. 8 in C-minor, Op. 13, ii. Adagio Cantabile	5' 30"
Y	Carol Wazlavek	W.A.Mozart	1756-1791	Adagio in b minor K540	9
Y	Ed Ewing	Ed Ewing		Home Life	4
Y	Gail Starr	Gail, Vidhya & Harriett (in DC), Andrea (Germany)	1960-	The WhatsApp Waltz	4
Y	Laurie & Sam	Gabriel Pierne	1863-1937	Canzonetta op.19	6
Y	Utako Tanigawa & Julie Woodall	W.A. Mozart	1756 - 1791	Concerto No.21	15'48"
L	Penny Li	J.S. Bach & Joseph Haydn	(1685-1750) (1732-1809)	Prelude and Fuge BWV 854 / Piano Sonata in C major Hob. XVI :50	15

**Playlist Link** [GMG Online Recital - March 13th, 2024 - YouTube](#)

## Performer's bio

### MICHAEL BROUNOFF

Although he suspended formal piano study after high school, Michael continued to play for personal enjoyment, serving as musical director of the satirical review, "Assault and Flattery" while in law school. As a practicing attorney, he still found time to direct the music for local productions of Broadway musicals, including Brigadoon, The Fantasticks, Anything Goes, The Grass Harp, Fiddler on the Roof, Oklahoma, and Guys & Dolls. He resumed formal piano study at age 53 with Dr. Tamas Ungar of Texas Christian University and—after accepting an appointment as Administrative Law Judge for the Social Security Administration in Syracuse, NY—with Dr. Fred Karpoff of Syracuse University. Transferring back to Dallas, he resumed study with Dr. Ungar. He has competed in the Van Cliburn Foundation's, International Piano Competition for Outstanding Amateurs four times, advancing to the semi-final round three times. He has attended Piano Texas Academy and Festival at TCU in 22 out of the last 24 years and won in competition the privilege of concerto performance with the Fort Worth Symphony Orchestra five times. Michael is now retired and lives in Plano, TX with his wife of 43 years, Martha Jane, their son, David Franklin, and Michael's piano, a 9-foot Knabe named "Obiwan."

### ED EWING

Ed is an amateur pianist who took piano lessons and played the tuba as a youth, then returned to the piano decades later following retirement. In the meantime, he enjoyed a medical career at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention where, as a board-certified pathologist, he specialized in infectious

disease pathology as a diagnostic consultant, researcher, teacher, and published author. He also led the team that developed new information technology still featured on the agency's website. Ed has traveled extensively, formally studied multiple foreign languages, successfully represented himself in court both as plaintiff and defendant, and actively participated in local politics. He is an Army veteran. Today, he teaches weekly classes in English for refugee speakers of other languages as a volunteer for the International Rescue Committee and serves weekly as a volunteer docent at the Fernbank Museum of Natural History. At home, he enjoys flower and vegetable gardening, woodworking, and oil painting. As a former city league basketball player, then longtime 10K runner and marathoner, he maintains an age-appropriate commitment to aerobic and strength fitness.

### **PENNY ZEHAO LI**

Penny Zehao Li is a piano student who is currently a junior at Wesleyan College, studying Music with Piano Emphasis. She started learning piano since 3 years old and previously studied at Xinhai Conservatory Pre-College Division for specialized music education. This past year she has participated in auditions and competitions with MTNA, Atlanta Music Club, Rome Symphony, and the Atlanta Community Symphony Orchestra. Recent prizes include awards at the GMTA Concerto Auditions, GMTA Solo Auditions, a Bronze medal at the Singapore International Piano Competition, the Scriabin Prize at the Macao International Piano Competition and a gold medal at the Hong Kong International Piano competition.

### **LAURIE SEARLE**

Laurie was one of the last women to enlist in the Women's Army Corps, playing Clarinet in the WAC band stationed at Ft. McClellan, Alabama. She went on to play in Army bands in Germany and Fort McPherson in Atlanta. She has a BA in Journalism and an MS in Technical Communications. She restarted Clarinet in 2014, after not playing for 30+ years, and now plays in several community bands south of Atlanta. She also leads the Peachtree Chamber Players, a wind quintet.

### **SAM SMITH**

Sam had a few years of piano lessons as a kid, but they didn't take! He retired in 2014 from Georgia Tech, where he worked in IT. He started piano lessons again in 2010, only missing six months in 2014 so that he could do a thru-hike of the Appalachian Trail, starting in Maine and walking 2100 miles home to Georgia. In 2016 he enrolled in the University of West Georgia, pursuing a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance. With luck, and the help of his friends, he should graduate in the Spring of 2020.

### **GAIL STARR**

Gail is an amateur classical pianist, who grew up in a musical family. She started violin at age 7 and quickly switched to piano at age 9 and then added cello in high school. Growing up she had the opportunity to play piano concerti with her local youth orchestras, where she was also a cellist. She has lived and worked in France on and off, starting at age 15 and benefited from studying in the French conservatory system. Her favorite activity is participating in chamber music weekends. After sustaining a hand injury in 2018, she is slowly working on regaining technique and has joined several online piano classes to deepen her understanding of the solo literature.

### **UTAKO TANIGAWA**

After owning a private school and a restaurant in Japan, Utako moved to the United States and earned seven degrees including a Ph.D. in Computer Science and Information Systems. She held executive positions in global corporations for thirty years and was a lecturer at multiple universities including Stanford and Boston University. Following a life-threatening diagnosis, she returned to music for solace and therapy. She has since participated in several international amateur piano

competitions. Driven to share her experience with others, she created GMG where she found new music repertoire and interpretations, friendships, and inspiring experiences from others.

### **CAROL WAZLAVEK**

Carol Andrus Wazlavek has been a member of the Greater Atlanta Area music scene all of her life, save a chunk of time she spent in corporate life working as a business computer programmer and creative artist in instructional design and presentation work. After her studies at Florida State, Georgia State, and Midwestern State University, she worked as a private piano teacher, as class pianist for Atlanta Ballet, Atlanta School of Ballet, and the Carl Ratcliff Company, as staff accompanist of the Miss T.E.E.N. pageant, and performed in concert and in a number of other environments on piano and harpsichord. Her passion is including visual arts within the music experience, which she includes in her music videos.

### **JULIE WOODALL**

Julie Woodall has played the piano for fifty years, earning a Bachelor of Music in piano performance and Master of Fine Arts from the University of Georgia. After college she taught elementary school music for 31 years in the Georgia counties of Lincoln and Clayton, believing that every child should experience the joy of music. She was the choir director and organist of St. Joseph's Episcopal Church in McDonough, GA for 13 years and is currently the choir director/organist at St. Elizabeth of Hungary Episcopal Church in Dahlonega. She enjoys accompanying solos and groups and has taught children and adults to play the piano for over 35 years. Having a strong Christian faith, she is grateful to be able to use her God-given talent where it is needed. She is blessed to have a wonderful family and terrific friends.